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MPTA

Massachusetts Parent Teacher Association, Inc.



99 Moody Street, Waltham, MA 02154 phone: 617-894-7644 fax: 617-894-9196 e-mail ma_pres@pta.org

, **x**

March 10, 1997

Chairman Reed Hundt and FCC Commissioners c/o Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street N.W., Room 222 Washington, DC 20554 MAR 2 4 1997
Faderal Communications Commission
Grad of Secretary

Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners: RE: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34

I am writing on behalf of the National PTA and the Massachusetts PTA to voice my opposition to the v-chip rating system as presented by Jack Valenti, Chair of the TV Rating Implementation Group, on January 17, 1997. The rating symbol on the TV screen does not provide sufficient content information so that parents can make decisions about what is appropriate TV programming for their children. Major surveys released this fall which demonstrate overwhelming parent preference for a rating system that gives information about the content of programs were conducted by the National PTA, U.S. News and World Report, and Media Studies Center/Roper. Parents do not want the TV industry to interpret what is best for their children. Parents want to make those choices themselves based on content information about the program. Any rating system without content descriptions on the screen and publicized in periodicals that carry TV scheduling is useless.

The FCC, by law, is required to determine whether the industry's rating system has met statutory requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. I do not believe this system does so and ask the FCC not approve the industry rating system. Instead, I request the following:

- That under no circumstances should the FCC approve the industry's rating system.
 Further, the FCC should accept no rating system that does not include content
 information about programs such as V (for violence), S (for sexual depiction and
 nudity) and L (for language);
- That the FCC require a V-chip band broad enough that would allow parents to receive more than one rating system;

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- That the rating icon on the TV screen be made larger, more prominently placed on the screen, and appear more frequently during the course of the program;
- That the rating board be independent of the industry and the FCC and that it include parents; and
- That any rating system approved by the FCC be evaluated by independent research to determine if it meets the needs of parents.

12

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on an issue so important to children and families.

Sincerely,

Joyce M. Knippenberg, President

Massachusetts Parent-Teacher Association

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Wilson Middle School PTSA

March 4, 1997

Chairman Reed Hundt and FCC Commissioners c/o Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street N.W. Room 222 Washington, DC 20554



Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners:

RE: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34

I am writing on behalf of the National PTA and the Wilson Middle School PTSA to voice our opposition to the v-chip rating system as presented by Jack Valenti, Chair of the TV Rating Implementation Group, on January 17, 1997. The rating symbol on the TV screen does not provide sufficient content information so that parents can make decisions about what is appropriate TV programming for their children. Major surveys released this fall which demonstrate overwhelming parent preference for a rating system that gives parents information about the content of programs were conducted by the National PTA, U. S. News and World Report, and Media Studies Center/Roper. Parents do not want the TV industry to interpret what is best for their children. Parents want to make those choices themselves based on content information about the program. Any ratings system without content descriptions on the screen and publicized in periodicals that carry TV scheduling is useless.

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* That the rating system board be independent of the industry and the

FCC and that it include parents; and

* That any rating system approved by the FCC be evaluated by independent research to determine if it meet the needs of parents.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on an issue so important to children and families.

Sincerely,

Jerry Buchanan, President Wilson Middle School PTSA

Hyde Park in Tampa, Florida

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MPTA

Massachusetts Parent Teacher Association, Inc.



99 Moody Street, Waltham, MA 02154 phone: 617-894-7644 fax: 617-894-9196 e-mail ma_pres@pta.org

March 10, 1997

RECEIVED

Chairman Reed Hundt and FCC Commissioners c/o Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street N.W., Room 222 Washington, DC 20554 MAR 2 4 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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3 X

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Sincerely,

Joyce M. Knippenberg, President

Massachusetts Parent-Teacher Association

Wilson Middle School PTSA

March 4, 1997

Chairman Reed Hundt and FCC Commissioners c/o Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street N.W. Room 222 Washington, DC 20554



Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners:

RE: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34

I am writing on behalf of the National PTA and the Wilson Middle School PTSA to voice our opposition to the v-chip rating system as presented by Jack Valenti, Chair of the TV Rating Implementation Group, on January 17, 1997. The rating symbol on the TV screen does not provide sufficient content information so that parents can make decisions about what is appropriate TV programming for their children. Major surveys released this fall which demonstrate overwhelming parent preference for a rating system that gives parents information about the content of programs were conducted by the National PTA, U. S. News and World Report, and Media Studies Center/Roper. Parents do not want the TV industry to interpret what is best for their children. Parents want to make those choices themselves based on content information about the program. Any ratings system without content descriptions on the screen and publicized in periodicals that carry TV scheduling is useless.

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* That any rating system approved by the FCC be evaluated by independent research to determine if it meet the needs of parents.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on an issue so important to children and families.

Sincerely,

Jerry Buchanan, President Wilson Middle School PTSA Hyde Park in Tampa, Florida

CS 97-55

JEFFREY L. BIRNBAUM 140 RIVERSIDE DRIVE - APT #14E DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL NEW YORK NY 10024

AT CENCED

MAR 2 & 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL - RRR

March 3, 1997

Customer Service Time Warner Cable of New York City 5120 Broadway New York, NY 10034

Dear Customer Service Department,

Your records incorrectly indicate that I owe you money. Since September I have made over 25 phone calls to Time Warner Cable of NYC and to RCN/Liberty Cable, my current cable TV carrier, trying to correct the mistake. I have been told over and over again, by your representatives as well as theirs, that the problem is between your two companies, and that it is up to the two companies to resolve it. In the meantime you've sent a collection agency after me.

I refuse to continue to be caught in the middle of your turf war with RCN/Liberty Cable.

The facts are clear. On September 6, 1996 RCN/Liberty Cable disconnected my Time Warner cable service and connected me to theirs. They collected your cable box and remote, replacing them with theirs.

I was present when the RCN/Liberty Cable technician made the changeover. I have the paperwork the technician filled out as well as a letter from RCN/Liberty Cable confirming that I was connected to their service on September 6, 1996. Copies of both are enclosed. For some reason, Time Warner's records incorrectly indicate that my Time Warner service was disconnected as of November 5, 1996.

Most infuriating is the damage you have done to my credit record by authorizing a collection agency to harass me, and the countless hours I have wasted trying to clear up your confusion. I have a three week old baby and am in the process of buying a new apartment. I need access to credit. Unfortunately for me, prospective lenders don't care that my otherwise pristine credit record has been unjustly tarnished as a result of your dispute with RCN/Liberty Cable.

In reality it is you who owe me money, not vice versa. You owe me my deposit, as well as a refund for your charges during the period September 7, 1996 through September 15, 1996; I had paid for service during that period as part of my payment for the period August 16, 1996 through September 15.

The way Time Warner Cable of NYC and RCN/Liberty Cable have handled my case, and the cases of many other former Time Warner Cable customers who have switched to RCN/Liberty Cable, is deplorable. By acting with all the maturity of the feuding Hatfields and McCoys, the two companies present an excellent case against deregulating the cable industry. You have proven not

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3/3/97 letter from Jeffrey L. Birnbaum to the Time Warner Cable of NYC Customer Service Department, page 2 of 2

only that you can't work together, but also that consumers desperately need protection from your petty rivalry.

I have copied quite a few people on this letter. They all have an interest in knowing how consumers such as myself are being punished for having elected to switch from Time Warner Cable to RCN/Liberty Cable. I trust that at least one of them will actually care enough to take appropriate action to protect all the consumers caught in your turf war.

In addition, those in the cable industry with the capacity to see the big picture will realize that, especially in light of all the existing and coming technologies competing with cable TV, the cable TV industry cannot afford to treat consumers with such abject disrespect.

Sincerely,

Time Warner Cable Account #10 001 1936018

Olney J. Burbar

Encl.

c: Richard Aurelio, Time Warner Cable of NYC (w/encl.)

Joseph J. Collins, Time Warner Cable (w/encl.)

Walter De La Cruz, Dept. of Information Technology & Telecommunications--Cable Division (w/encl.)

Reed E. Hundt, Federal Communications Commission (w/encl.)

Richard Kessel, New York State Consumer Protection Board (w/encl.)

Gerald M. Levin, Time Warner Inc. (w/encl.)

Jose Maldonado, New York City Department of Consumer Affairs (w/encl.)

David C. McCourt, RCN/Liberty Cable (w/encl.)

John F. O'Mara, New York State Public Service Commission (w/encl.)

Dennis Vacco, New York State Attorney General (w/encl.)

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Lori S. Dale, President
West Terrace Elem. PTA
1527 N. Boehne Camp Road
Evansville, IN 47720
Friday, March 7, 199

Chairman Reed Hundt & FCC Commissioners c/o Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street N.W., Room 222 Washington, DC 20554 MAR 2 4 1997
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners:

RE: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34

I am writing on behalf of the National PTA and the West Terrace Elementary PTA in Evansville, Indiana, to voice my opposition to the v-chip rating system as presented by Jack Valenti, Chair of the TV Rating Implementation Group, on January 17, 1997. The rating symbol on the TV screen does not provide sufficient content information so that parents can make decisions about what is appropriate TV programming for their children. Major surveys released this fall which demonstrate overwhelming parent preference for a rating system that gives parents information about the content of programs were conducted by the National PTA, U.S. News and World Report, and Media Studies Center/Roper. Parents do not want the TV industry to interpret what is best for their children. Parents want to make those choices themselves based on content information about the program. Any rating system without content descriptions on the screen and publicized in periodicals that carry TV scheduling is useless.

The FCC, by law, is required to determine whether the industry's rating system has bet statutory requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. I do not believe this system does so and ask that the FCC not approve the industry rating system. Instead, we request the following:

- That under no circumstances should the FCC approve the industry's rating system. Further, the FCC should accept no rating system that does not include content information about programs such as V (for violence), S (for sexual depiction and nudity), and L (for language);
- That the FCC require a V-chip band broad enough to allow parents to receive more than one rating system;
- That the rating icon on the TV screen be made larger, more prominently placed on the screen, and appear more frequently during the course of a program;

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- That the rating board be independent of the industry and the FCC and that it include parents; and,
- That any rating system approved by the FCC be evaluated by independent research to determine if it meets the needs of parents.

Sincerely,

Lori S. Dale

cc: Joan Dykstra, President

National PTA



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MAR 2 4 1997

Federal Communications Commission Office of Secretary

8300 S. Lavergne Burbank; IL 60459 DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

(708) 499-3049

March 5, 1997

Chairman Reed Hundt and FCC Commissioners c/o Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street N.W., Room 222 Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners:

RE: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34

I am writing on behalf of the National PTA and the R.E. Byrd PTA to voice our opposition to the v-chip rating system as presented by Jack Valenti, Chair of the TV Rating Implementation Group, on January 17, 1997. The rating symbol on the TV screen does not provide sufficient content information so that parents can make decisions about what is appropriate TV programming for their children. Major surveys released this fall which demonstrate overwhelming parent preference for a rating system that gives parents information about the content of programs were conducted by the National PTA, U.S. News and World Report, and Media Studies Center/Roper. Parents do not want the TV industry to interpret what is best for their children. Parents want to make those choices themselves based on content information about the program. Any rating system without content descriptions on the screen and publicized in periodicals that carry TV scheduling is useless.

The FCC, by law, is required to determine whether the industry's rating system has met statutory requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. We do not believe this system does so and ask that the FCC not approve the industry rating system. Instead, we request the following:

• That under no circumstances should the FCC approve the industry's rating system. Further, the FCC should accept no rating system that does not include content information about programs such as V (for violence), S (for sexual depiction and nudity), and L (for language);

- That the FCC require a V-chip band broad enough that would allow parents to receive more than one rating system;
- That the rating icon on the TV screen be made larger, more prominently placed on the screen, and appear more frequently during the course of a program;
- That the rating board be independent of the industry and the FCC and that it include parents; and
- That any rating system approved by the FCC be evaluated by independent research to determine if it meets the needs of parents.

Sincerely,

Christi Tyler

President, RE Byrd PTA

Justi Tyles

Burbank, Illinois

March 10, 1997

Chairman Reed Hundt and FCC Commissioners c.o Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street N.W., Room 222 Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners:

RE: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34

I am writing on behalf of the National PTA and the West Virginia PTA to voice my opposition to the v-chip rating system as presented by Jack Valenti, Chair of the TV Rating Implementation Group, on January 17, 1997. The rating symbol on the TV screen does not provide sufficient content information so that parents can make decisions about what is appropriate TV programming for their children. Maker surveys released this fall which demonstrate overwhelming parent preference for a rating system that gives parents information about the content of programs were conducted by the National PTA, U.S. News and World Report, and Media Studies Center/Roper. Parents do not want the TV industry to interpret what is best for their children. Parents want to make those choices themselves based on content information about the program. Any rating system without content descriptions on the screen and publicized in periodicals that carry TV scheduling is useless.

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- * That the rating icon on the TV screen be made larger, more prominently placed on the screen, and appear more frequently during the course of a program;
- * That the rating board be independent of the industry and the FCC and that it include parents; and
- * That any rating system approved by the FCC be evaluated by independent research to determine if it meets the needs of parents.

Sincerely,

Volores & Blake

March 16, 1997

Chairman Reed Hunt and FCC Commissioners c/o Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street N>W> Room 222 Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners:

RE: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34

I am writing on behalf of the National PTA and the WV State PTA to voice my opinion to the v-chip rating system as presented by Jack Valenti, Chair of the TV rating Implementation Group, on Jan. 17, 1997. The rating symbol on the TV screen does not provide suffficient information so that parents can make decisions about what is appropriate TV programming for their children. Major surveys released this fall which demonstrate overwhelming parent preference for a rating system that gives parents information about the content of programs were cnducted by the National PTA, U.S. News and World Report, and Media Studies Center/Roper. Parents do not want the TV industry to interpret what is best for their children. Parent s want to make those choices themselves based on content information about the program. Any rating system without content descriptions on the screen and publicized in periodicals that carry TV scheduling is useless.

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That any rating system approved the the FCC be ealuated by independent research to determine if it meets the needs of parents.

Sincerely,

Geneva Kent PTA

Pan Curtis

Huntington, WV



10400 ROTHBURY HOUSTON, TEXAS 77043 (713) 329-6400

March 18, 1997

Chairman Reed Hunt and FCC Commissioners c/o Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street N.W., Room 222 Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners:

RE: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34

I am writing on behalf of the National PTA and the Terrace Elementary PTA to voice our opposition to the v-chip rating system as presented by Jack Valenti, Chair of the TV Rating Implementation Group, on January 17, 1997. The rating symbol on the TV screen does not provide sufficient content information so that parents can make decisions about what is appropriate TV programming for their children. Major surveys released this fall which demonstrate overwhelming parent preference for a rating system that gives parents information about the content of programs were conducted by the National PTA, U.S. News and World Report, and Media Studies Center/Roper. Parents do not want the TV industry to interpret what is best for their children. Parents want to make those choices themselves based on content information about the program. Any rating system without content descriptions on the screen and publicized in periodicals that carry TV scheduling is useless.

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Sincerely,

Cathy Poye

PTA President

March 10, 1997

Chairman Reed Hundt and FCC Commissioners of Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street N.W., Room 222 Washington, DC 20554

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RE: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34

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- * That any rating system approved by the FCC be evaluated by independent research to determine if it meets the needs of parents.

Sincerely,

Moraly Rouland.
Sugar Rouland
Welda Isard
Howard Sword

March 1997 Charman Read Hundt and FC Commissioners To Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street NW Room 222 Washington, DC 20554 RE: CS Duket No 97-55, FCC 97-34 Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners: I am writing as a member of the South Florida Pre-School PTA in South Dade to voice my opposition to the Volip rating system as presented by Jack Valenti, Chair of the TV Rating Implementation Group, on Jan 17, 1997. The ration Symbol on the TV screen does not provide enough information so we (parents) can make decisions about what is appropriate TV programming for the our Kids! Any rating system without content descriptions on the screen and ipublicized in periodicals that carry TV shodiling is useless. The FCC, by law, is required to determine whather the industries rating system has ment statutory requirements of the telecommunications that of 1996. I do not believe this system does so and ask that the FCC not approve the industry rating system! I noteed, I See!

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Miani, A 3315

CHAIRMAN REED HUNDT AND FCC COMMISSIONERS C/O FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION 1919 M STREET N.W., ROOM 222 WASHINGTON, DC 20554

DEAR CHAIRMAN HUNDT AND COMMISSIONERS:

RE: CS DOCKET NO. 97-55, FCC 97-34

WE ARE WRITING ON BEHALF ON THE NATIONAL PTA AND THE BETTES ELEMENTARY PTA TO VOICE OUR OPPOSITION TO THE V-CHIP RATING SYSTEM AS PRESENTED BY JACK VALENTI, CHAIR OF THE TV RATING IMPLEMENTATION GROUP, ON JANUARY 17, 1997. THE RATING SYMBOL ON THE TV SCREEN DOES NOT PROVIDE SUFFICIENT CONTENT INFORMATION SO THAT PARENTS CAN MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT WHAT IS APPROPRIATE TV PROGRAMMING FOR THEIR CHILDREN. MAJOR SURVEYS RELEASED THIS FALL WHICH DEMONSTRATE OVERWHELMING PARENT PREFERENCE FOR A RATING SYSTEM THAT GIVES PARENTS INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONTENT OF PROGRAMS WERE CONDUCTED BY THE NATIONAL PTA, U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, AND MEDIA STUDIES CENTER/ROPER. PARENTS DO NOT WANT THE TV INDUSTRY TO INTERPRET WHAT IS BEST FOR THEIR CHILDREN. PARENTS WANT TO MAKE THOSE CHOICES THEMSELVES BASED ON CONTENT INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAM. ANY RATING SYSTEM WITHOUT CONTENT DESCRIPTIONS ON THE SCREEN AND PUBLICIZED IN PERIODICALS THAT CARRY TV SCHEDULING IS USELESS.

THE FCC, BY LAW, IS REQUIRED TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE INDUSTRY'S RATING SYSTEM HAS MET STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THIS SYSTEM DOES SO AND ASK THAT THE FCC NOT APPROVE THE INDUSTRY RATING SYSTEM. INSTEAD, WE REQUEST THE FOLLOWING:

- *** THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD THE FCC APPROVE THE INDUSTRY'S RATING SYSTEM! FURTHER, THE FCC SHOULD ACCEPT NO RATING SYSTEM THAT DOES NOT INCLUDE CONTENT INFORMATION ABOUT PROGRAMS SUCH AS V (FOR VIOLENCE), S (FOR SEXUAL DEPICTION AND NUDITY) AND L (FOR LANGUAGE);
- *** THAT THE FCC REQUIRE A V-CHIP BAND BROAD ENOUGH THAT WOULD ALLOW PARENTS TO RECEIVE MORE THAN ONE RATING SYSTEM;
- *** THAT THE RATING ICON ON THE TV SCREEN BE MADE LARGER, MORE PROMINENTLY PLACED ON THE SCREEN, AND APPEAR MORE FREQUENTLY DURING THE COURSE OF A PROGRAM;
- *** THAT THE RATING BOARD BE INDEPENDENT OF THE INDUSTRY AND THE FCC AND THAT IT <u>INCLUDE PARENTS</u>; AND
- *** THAT ANY RATING SYSTEM APPROVED BY THE FCC BE EVALUATED BY INDEPENDENT RESEARCH TO DETERMINE IF IT MEETS THE NEEDS OF PARENTS.

THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON AN ISSUNO SON Copies rec'd_IMPORTANT TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES. List ABCDE